

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process for the production of cigarette paper printed upon in pattern form which is impregnated in strip form with fire-inhibiting materials, wherein printing is effected with an aqueous printing solution on a self-supporting paper web wherein the printing solution contains water-soluble polymers and the paper is heated to a temperature of over 50°C prior to or during the printing operation, wherein the operation of printing on the paper is effected after it has left the paper screen and the press portion of a paper machine but before the paper web is rolled up.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polymers originate from one or more of the hereinafter listed classes of polyvinyl alcohols, polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides or partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetates.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said temperature is higher than that value at which the polymers precipitate from water.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the paper is heated to 70 – 90° C prior to or during the printing operation.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the printing solution is of a viscosity of a maximum of 4000 mPa · s at 20° C.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the paper is of a base weight of 15 - 40 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the paper to be printed upon has an absorption height of 6 - 15 mm/10 min., preferably an absorption height of 8-13 mm/10 min.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 4 ~~7~~ ~~characterized in that the operation of printinting the paper is effected after it has left the paper screen and the press portion of a paper machine but before the paper web is rolled up. wherein the paper to be printed upon has an absorption height of 8 - 13mm/10 min.~~

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 4 ~~8~~ ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the paper web is printed upon, wherein a contact dryer for the paper web, in roller form, serves as a backing support.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 9 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ subsequently to the printing operation the paper web is impregnated over its entire surface area with an aqueous solution.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process as set forth in claim 10 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the aqueous solution contains fire-promoting means.

12. (CANCELLED).